

Australia mints new gold coin

By Roger Boye

A playful koala adorns the "tails" side of the first gold coin minted in Australia since 1931.

"We wanted to make the coin distinctly Australian," said a government executive. The koala is depicted clinging to the branch of an eucalyptus tree.

Royal Australian Mint officials are selling the coins to American collectors at \$376 for a proof specimen and \$295 for an uncirculated coin. For ordering details, write to the mint, in care of P.O. Box 2200, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006.

The coin has a face value of \$200 and

contains about $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of gold. Queen Elizabeth II is on the "heads" side. ...

Other countries, including Mexico and Britain, also produce gold coins that are available to U.S. collectors. Write to me for information about gold coins made by a specific country, but please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

• A third Anthony dollar coin is being added to the government's 1980 uncirculated coin sets currently being sold by the Bureau of the Mint.

Each set will contain 13 coins, a cent through a dollar coin from the Philadelphia and Denver mints, and — new this year — a dollar coin made in San Francisco. The cost is \$9 a set, \$1 more than the 1979 sets that included only 12 coins.

To order, send a check to Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. A maximum of five sets may be ordered per person.